

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 remain in the application. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended.

Applicants have amended claim 2 to recite "an auxiliary roll" to provide sufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. With this amendment to claim 2, applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 comply with the statute.

Claim 1 was rejected as being anticipated by Du Bois. The examiner suggests that the Du Bois device can be used to facilitate cutting and threading of a tail when the calender is in operation. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and characterization of Du Bois.

First of all Du Bois discloses an apparatus for preventing a web from winding on the rolls of a calender. If a full-width web breaks, the apparatus, which is comprised of a plurality of guillotine-type cutter bars, is actuated to cut the web before the next calender nip in the web path and deflect every stretch of a continuous paper web. Thus wind-up is prevented.

In contrast, applicants invention recites a support device adapted at the holding point for supporting the tail during the cutting operation. Du Bois contains no such teaching or suggestion. Applicants' invention is used for cutting the tail run down to a broke treatment. This advantage cannot be obtained by following the teachings of Du Bois. Claim 1 is therefore felt to be patentable over this reference.

Claims 4 and 5 were rejected as being obvious over Du Bois in view of Conrad. The examiner states that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the calender stack of Du Bois to also include a vacuum conveyor belt as described by Conrad to facilitate the cutting and guiding of the narrow lead strip. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

First of all Du Bois does not provide the basic structural elements of the claimed invention. The calender of Du Bois is an off-line calender and there is no rope carrier system. During tail threading, the calender is operated on a creep mode wherein

the rolls are rotated very slowly and the tail itself is guided by hand to a nip and after that around a guide roll to a second nip again by hand and so on through the calender. In Du Bois, there is no holding point prior to the last nip. Guide roll 60 is used for tightening the full-width web and does not form any nip with the extraction roll.

Accordingly to applicants' invention, the tail threading means are fully automated and the tail is threaded at the speed of the on-line paper machine. The cutting device as well as the holding point is located side from the track of the web and is never in contact with the web, only the tail.

The Du Bois apparatus can not be used for tail threading. The barrier only includes cut out 99, which allows guiding the tail by hand to the nip and there is no provision for threading the tail.

Conrad discloses a calender that appears to have some type of carrier system which leads through the whole calender. Therein a tail can be guided to a nip via a belt conveyor. Conrad contains no teaching or suggestion that the belt is in contact with the extraction roll and there is no holding point or support device as taught by applicants' invention. Furthermore the belt conveyor is disposed in the middle of the calender, not prior to the last nip, and there is no cutting device. As a result, it is impossible to lead the tail into the broke treatment. Accordingly, the combination that would result from incorporating features of Conrad into the apparatus of Du Bois would still lack a support device adapted at the holding point for supporting a tail during a cutting operation.

For these reasons applicants submit that the rejection of claims 4 and 5 are improper and should be withdrawn.

Casper and Munch were cited but not applied.

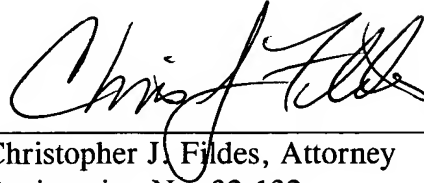
This amendment is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Fildes", written over a horizontal line.

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